In The Beginning

Genesis 1:1
10/5/97

בראשׁית ברא אלהים את השׁמים ואת הארץ Gen.1:1

*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

I. ***Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…***
There is a POINT at which TIME BEGAN

II. ***Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…***
God is AWESOME in His essence, power & wisdom

III. ***Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…***
Life has DESIGN & PURPOSE

IV. ***Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…***
Creation did not CREATE ITSELF (Evolution is a lie)

V. ***Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…***
Man is RESPONSIBLE to Glorify the Creator

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

If a Creator exists, these are some of the resultant consequences:

1) I am known by the Creator.
2) I am inferior to the superior Creator.
3) I am responsible to the Creator.
4) I will be judged (held accountable) by the Creator.
5) I should live for the glory and purpose of the Creator.
6) I am not the master of my life.
   Therefore, I cannot live any way I please; I must do His will.

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Introduction:

Genesis, a book inspired by God (II Tim. 3:16) and written through Moses, is the first book of the Hebrew Torah (Law) and is titled by the first word in the book - *"Bereshith."*

It is the first of five books called in Greek "The *Pentateuch."*

Structure of the Book. The Book of Genesis may conveniently be divided into four major parts:
(1) the Creation and the early days of mankind <Gen. 1:1--11:26>;
(2) the story of Abraham and Isaac <Gen. 12:1--25:18>;
(3) the story of Jacob and Esau <Gen. 25:19--36:43>; and
(4) the story of Joseph and his brothers <Gen. 37:1--50:26>.
(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
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Both the Old Testament and the New Testament contain frequent testimony to the Mosaic authorship of the entire Pentateuch <Lev. 1:1-2; Neh. 13:1; Matt. 8:4; Acts 26:22>. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

The English Word "Genesis" is derived from the Greek Septuagint's title for this book. In Hebrew, its title *"Bereshith"* (from the first word) means origin or beginnings. So "Genesis" means beginnings or origin.

This is an appropriate title since this book records the beginnings of the entire physical universe.

Genesis gives us an accurate understanding of how. . .

--the <u>world</u> began (an understanding which eludes the minds of the proud, humanistic, so-called agnostics and atheists)

--<u>mankind</u> began

--the <u>family</u> began (through Adam and Eve)

--<u>sin</u> began (in the Garden of Eden)

--<u>government</u> began (through Noah - Gen. 9:6)

--the <u>world's nations</u> began (through Shem, Ham, and Japheth)

--the <u>Jewish nation</u> began (through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)

The beginning of salvation history-- the story of God and man, sin and grace, wrath and mercy, covenant and redemption-- also begins in the Book of Genesis. These themes are repeated often throughout the rest of the Bible.
(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
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An understanding of Genesis is foundational to all theology and doctrinal understanding. The rest of the Bible builds on the historical facts presented in this book.

"It is no accident that God is the subject of the first sentence of the Bible." (Derek Kidner, Genesis, p. 43).

God is the focus of the entire Bible.

In Gen. 1:1, God does not prove Himself; He asserts Himself. He does not argue for His existence; rather, He bolding states it.

This is instructive to us regarding our apologetic (defense of the faith). We don't need to prove the existence of God to anyone. God's creation does a good enough job of that (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20).

I'm a presuppositionalist: I presuppose that all men know God exists (whether or not they will admit it. "There are no atheists in foxholes.")

Verse one summarizes the whole chapter. God made everything.

בראשׁית ברא אלהים את השׁמים ואת הארץ Gen.1:1
"Baresheet bara elohim at hashamayim wat ha-aretz"

So much is said in ten words.

The first chapter of Genesis has probably given rise to more thought, discussion, and controversy than any other (W.H. Griffith Thomas, Genesis, p. 24).

While many call it "Myth from man's imagination," I believe it is "historical fact from divine revelation."

*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

I. *Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…*
There is a POINT at which TIME BEGAN

"The beginning" - Not the beginning of eternity; nor the beginning of the abode of God (the "third heaven" - II Cor. 12:2), but the beginning of the physical universe (the earth's globe, the sky, and outer space).

The beginning of the five basic scientific realities (in a physical universe) are mentioned in Gen. 1:1-2 -

1. Time = In the beginning
2. Space = The heavens
3. Matter = The earth
4. Force = The Spirit of God
5. Motion = moved

(F.H. Capron, cited by Thomas, p. 31)

Until God spoke creation into existence, nothing existed.

We are today living in a "bubble" of time which had its beginning in Gen. 1:1.

Although the eternal God is not bound by time ("One day is as a thousand years"), He has chosen to create time, and to allow His temporal creation to exist during a limited time frame. After the Millenium, time shall be no more, the former things shall pass away and eternity future will continue.

II. *Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…*
God is AWESOME in His essence, power & wisdom

Elohim is the only name used for God in Gen. 1. This name, used over 2500 times in the Old Testament, refers to God as the "Strong One," the mighty God.

The word Elohim is a plural name. This is significant.

All things were created by the <u>Triune Godhead</u>
(The Trinity was involved in creation)

Evidence:

a. Plural pronouns - Genesis 1:26 - "Let <u>us</u> make man in <u>our</u> image." Cp. verse 27 - "So <u>God</u> created man in his own image."

b. Man was created:

1) By the <u>Father</u>
- Rev. 4:11 - Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.)

2) By the <u>Son</u>
- John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- Col. 1:15-16 - Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
- Heb. 1:2 - Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3) By the <u>Spirit</u>
- Psalm 104:30 - Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.
- Job 33:4 - The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.
- cp. Gen. 2:7 - "breathed" and "breath" = "ruach," which can be translated "Spirit")

"The verb used for create (*bara*) is used in Scripture exclusively for the activity of God. Humans may "make" (*asa*), "form" (*yasar*), or "build" (*bana*); to the Hebrew, however, God creates." (Allen P. Ross, Creation and Blessing, p. 106).

God created the world out of nothing

("Exnihilo" - i.e. without pre-existing materials)

"Created" - The Hebrew word "barah" (Gen. 1:1; 1:27; 2:3; 5:2) "refers to a sudden, supernatural, bringing into existence of something that previously did not exist" (John Whitcomb).

Other Scriptural Evidence:

a. Hebrews 11:3 -Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

b. Psalm 33:6 -By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

c. The repeated phrase--"And God said. . . and it was so"--indicates that the act of creation took place by the instantaneous power of the word of God (Gen. 1:6-7; 9, 11, 24, etc.)

For God to create such a vast, and yet detailed, balanced and beautiful universe, He must be awesome.

His power made it all, and His wisdom made it all just right.

III. *Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…*
Life has DESIGN & PURPOSE

Creation reflects well-thought-out design; it's too well-arranged to be a freak of nature or happenstance.

Since a personal God made the world and everything in it, life has meaning. There is purpose to life. Life has a goal.

What a <u>meaningless</u> life this would be, if there was no intelligent, loving, powerful creator (who planned and made it all).

The fool who says in his heart "there is no God," really has <u>no</u> purpose in life and no meaning to life (since in his mind life is an accident).
--That which makes a job worth doing is the purpose (aim) of the job (there's an objective)

--That which makes relationships enjoyable is when they are meaningful.

--If there is no objective to a sport's game (EX: football), then why play and why view it?

There must be a goal (be it ever so simple) for any activity to be worth doing.

Life is empty for the atheist and agnostic. Such people cannot be truly at peace in themselves, because there are paramount, fundamental questions which have not been answered in their minds. (Who am I? How did I get here? Why am I here? And Where am I going?)

People often turn to drugs or other substance abuse or decide to end it all in suicide because their lives are void of purpose and meaning (you'll never meet a truly happy person who denies God's existence).

My friend, nothing can fill that empty spot (void, vacuum) in your heart except the true and living God!

IV. *Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…*
Creation did not CREATE ITSELF (Evolution is a lie)

"The Heaven" - lit. the heavens (hashamim - plural). Referring to the sky surrounding the earth (the atmosphere) and outer space (the galaxies).

"The earth" - the globe of the world with its capacity to sustain life.

The Theory of Evolution

a. The definition of evolution: The word "evolution" describes a process of continuous change from a lower, simpler, or worse state to a higher, more complex, or better state. (Webster's Dictionary)

The evolution of man involves a supposed "process by which, through some sort of aggregation of matter though many ages and countless species, by chance or by some undetected, impersonal law, man appears."

b. The hypothesis of evolution: The evolutionist believes that life evolved in this way:

1) From nothing to something

2) From inorganic to organic

3) From plant life to animal life

4) From animal life to man

c. The flaws of evolution:

1) Evolution is actually unscientific.

True science is the discovery of facts (laws or principles) based on the "collection of data through observation and experiment."
One species forming into another has never been observed (seen by man), nor has it been produced in a lab.

Therefore, evolution is not fact, but faith. A blind faith based on assumptions which cannot be proven.

Everyone believes in something. No one can endure the stress and cares of life without faith in something that cannot ultimately be proven. Atheists cannot prove there is no God. Pantheists cannot prove that everything is God. Pragmatists cannot prove that what will count for them in the future is what works for them now. Nor can agnostics prove that it is impossible to know one way or the other. Faith is unavoidable, even if we choose to believe only in ourselves. What is to be decided is what evidence we think is pertinent, how we are going to

interpret that evidence, and who or what we are willing to believe in (Luke 16:16).
Each of us has a choice. We can look at the evidence for God's existence and believe that He is there, or we can set aside the evidence and decide that there is no God. Either way, we must cross a bridge of faith, because neither argument can present laboratory verification.
The Limitations Of Science

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2) Evolution has no valid answer for the origination of matter.

What started the "Big Bang?" Where did the original substance from which "life evolved" come from?

3) Evolution contradicts the first and second Laws of Thermodynamics.

a) The first Law of Thermodynamics notes that in all real processes, the total quantity of matter and/or energy stays constant, even though it frequently changes form (EX: ice to water, rock to sand, etc.). This law proves that nothing is being either "created" or "evolved" by the present processes.

b) The second Law of Thermodynamics (one of the best-proven laws of science) says that the whole universe is running down into complete disorder. The universe is not improving nor become more complex nor gaining higher organization with time, but rather is deteriorating with time, becoming less ordered, leading toward entropy (an inferior change of energy and matter)

Ps 102:25-27
Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.
They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:
(KJV)

The second law states hat when energy is transformed from one state to another, some of it is turned into heat energy which cannot be converted back into useful forms. This indicates hat the universe is deteriorating.

Example: The sun and stars irretrievably emit millions of tons of energy every day, and given enough time would eventually burn out of existence.

The amount of helium-4 in the atmosphere suggests that our atmosphere is less than 15,000 years old. Approximately fifteen million tons of nickel meteorite dust settle o earth each year. If he earth is five billion years old, then there should be a layer of dust at least 200 feet thick, but there isn't.

4) Evolution contradicts known <u>biological facts</u>.

a) Through "mutations" no new life form has ever evolved.

b) The chromosome count in plants and animals and humans is totally distinct.

c) The distinct DNA in life forms prevents them from evolving into a new species (like begets only like).

5) Evolution has no proof of <u>intermediate species</u> ("<u>missing links</u>")

The <u>link</u> or <u>bridge</u> between inorganic and organic, between plant life and animal life, and between animal life and man has never been scientifically proven. (EX: There is no valid link between man and ape)

6) Evolution is <u>statistically</u> <u>impossible</u>.

The French Mathematician, Lecompte de Nouy, examined the laws of probability for a single molecule of high dissymmetry to be formed by the action of chance. De Nouy found that, on an average, the time needed to form one such molecule of our terrestrial globe would be about 10 to the 253 power billions of years.
"But," continued de Nouy ironically, "let us admit that no matter how small the chance it could happen, one molecule could be created by such astronomical odds of chance. However, one molecule is of no use. Hundreds of millions of identical ones are necessary. Thus we either admit the miracle or doubt the absolute truth of science." Quoted in; "Is Science Moving Toward Belief in God?" Paul A. Fisher, The Wanderer, (Nov 7, 1985), cited in Kingdoms In Conflict, C. Colson, p. 66

The statistical probability that the complex and ordered universe would result from chance processes, ungoverned by a personal intelligent, deliberate Designer, is virtually nil.

"The statistical probability of the ordered cosmos resulting from spontaneous generation (evolution) is considerably less than the probability that an explosion in a print shop would produce a dictionary."

For the sun to be just far enough from the earth that it doesn't burn up and close enough that it doesn't freeze up is too precise a distance to be mere chance (or an accident).

7) Evolution contradicts <u>common sense</u>.

To believe it was by <u>chance</u> or by <u>accident</u> that a detailed, aesthetic (beautiful), vast, and orderly universe came into existence is irrational.

> While that seems hard to believe, it makes great sense when compared with the alternative. If indeed the worlds were not made by God out of nothing, then the next-best solution is that the worlds were made by no one out of nothing. Compare the two ideas for reasonableness and see which conclusion you come to.
> The Habits Of The Heart

> It is absurd for the Evolutionist to complain that it is unthinkable for an admittedly unthinkable God to make everything out of nothing, and then pretend that it is more thinkable that nothing should turn itself into anything.
> --G.K. Chesterton in The Quotable Chesterton

Note: At the present rate at which the world's population is increasing, if mankind has been in existence as long as the evolutionists claim, the world would be over-filled with people.

8) Evolution contradicts the clear statement of <u>Scripture</u> about origins.

a) Genesis 1-2 -

b) Matthew 19:4 -And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female

c) Hebrews 11:3 -Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

d) Evolution contradicts the Biblical principle that plants and animals only produce "after their kind" (Gen. 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25). This truth, though written thousands of years ago, is scientifically validated today!

The motive of evolution

Evolution is Satanic:

> Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all-fours, who, because of his "divine spiritual and intellectual development," has become the most vicious animal of all!"
> Anton Szandor LaVey, "The Satanic Bible", p. 25, 33

What caused man to think up such a theory?

Basic answer: Sinful man does not want to be accountable to a Creator God.

Fallen man wants to make a way to leave God out of the origin of life, so that he does not have to acknowledge the Creator's authority and glorify Him. Evolution is so readily accepted simply because it gives man the "luxury" of keeping the concept of God out of his life and conscience (Jn. 3:19-20 - *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved*).

See: Romans 1:18-32 -

1) The real reason for evolution - V. 18 - "Men hold (hold down, suppress) the truth in unrighteousness."

2) The inexcusableness of evolution - V. 19-20 - Creation clearly points to a Creator (and His power and authority).

3) The end result of evolution - V. 21-32

   a) Empty lives and blind eyes (v. 21)

   b) Pride and delusion (v. 22)

   c) Idolatry (materialism) (v. 27)

   d) Immorality (v. 24-32)

      If there is no God, then there are:

      (1) No absolutes
      (No definite right and wrongs; Issues are not black & white; All things are relative to situations and circumstances; No such thing as truth)

      (2) No moral standards
      (There would be nothing by which to measure rightness; Man can set his own rules, and play the game of life any way he wants; Situation ethics becomes the rule)

      (3) No boundaries
      (Nothing is off limits; nothing is sacred ground; No act is a transgression)

      (4) No shame or embarrassment for sin
      (If there are no definite rights & wrongs, there should be no feelings of guilt, no matter what you do)

      (5) No fear of judgment
      (If there is no Creator God, man is accountable to no one; He can live anyway he wants without the fear of consequences)

      (6) No need of salvation
      "It becomes clear now that the whole justification of Jesus' life and death is predicated on the existence of Adam and the forbidden fruit he and Eve ate. Without the original sin, who needs to be redeemed? Without Adams fall into a life of constant sin terminated by death, what purpose is there to Christianity? None."
      G. Richard Bozarth, "The Meaning of Evolution", American Atheist, 20 Sept. 1979, p. 30

V. *Genesis 1:1 teaches us that…*
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6) I am not the master of my life.
   Therefore, I cannot live any way I please; I must do His will.

CONCLUSION:

If God made it all, God has power over all, authority over all, sovereignty over all, dominance over all, and preeminence over all.

"This is my Father's World."

If God be God, then He is to be feared and obeyed. We have no choice but to do what He wills, and to surrender our lives to Him.

Songs:

--"This is My Father's World"
--"Our God is an Awesome God"
--"Great is Thy Faithfulness"